

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14676

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE VICE PREMIER KU MU VISIT TO FRANCE

1. SUMMARY: KU MU ARRIVED IN PARIS MAY 2 FOR A VISIT OF 10 DAYS. FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF TALKS AND VISITS TO TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS, HE LEFT PARIS MAY 4 FOR FIVE DAYS IN MARSEILLE AND OTHER SITES IN THE FRENCH PROVINCES. HE WILL RETURN TO PARIS FOR TWO DAYS BEFORE DEPARTING TO CONTINUE HIS EUROPEAN TOUR. THE PRINCIPAL RESULT OF HIS INITIAL DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS WAS ARRANGEMENT OF A MEETING WITH GISCARD, NOW PLANNED FOR MAY 11. END SUMMARY.

2. KU MU'S VISIT HAS CLEARLY BEEN ORIENTED TOWARD POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF FRENCH TECHNOLOGY. THE FRENCH HAVE NOTED THAT KU MU HIMSELF IS KNOWN PARTICULARLY FOR HIS COMPETENCE IN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS. IN ADDITION, THE COMPOSITION OF HIS PARTY, WHICH
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INCLUDES MADAME CHIEN CHENG-YING, MINISTER OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND POWER, VICE MINISTER FOR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PENG MIN, AND VICE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS CHANG KEN-SHENG, INDICATES THIS AREA OF INTEREST. THE CHINESE HAVE VISITED OR WILL VISIT TECHNICAL INSTALLATIONS AT CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, THE NEW HIGH-SPEED REGIONAL METRO LINES

AROUND PARIS, THE TIDAL-POWER STATION AT RANCE, THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION AT BUGEY, A BERLIET TRUCK FACTORY, PORT INSTALLATIONS IN MARSEILLE, THE FOS STEEL COMPLEX, A HELICOPTER FACTORY IN MARGNANE, AND THE ALSTHOM LOCOMOTIVE FACTORY IN BELFORT. MADAME CHIEN CHENG-YING WILL ALSO VISIT IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN THE CAMARGUE. FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO THE UGINE-ACIER PLANT AT FOS, KU MU WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "VERY IMPRESSIVE. YOU HAVE MANY THINGS THERE FROM WHICH WE CAN TAKE INSPIRATION."

3. THE FRENCH CONSIDER THE VISIT EXPLORATORY ON THE PRACTICAL LEVEL, AND A KIND OF HALF-WAY STATION ON THE POLITICAL LEVEL. THE CHINESE ARE EXPECTED TO COLLECT INFORMATION AND IMPRESSIONS, ESPECIALLY ON THE MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED INSTALLATIONS, AND TO COMPARE THEM WITH BRITISH, BELGIAN, GERMAN, DANISH, SWISS AND OTHER COMPETITORS BEFORE DECIDING ON WHAT BEST SUITS THEIR NEEDS. POLITICALLY, THE FRENCH HAVE STRESSED THAT THE VISIT DOES NOT RETURN THE VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER BARRE TO PEKING EARLIER THIS YEAR. HUA'S VISIT TO FRANCE, EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, WILL CONSTITUTE THE RETURN VISIT. IN BETWEEN, A NUMBER OF CHINESE TECHNICAL MISSIONS ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT FRANCE TO FOLLOW UP AND EXPAND ON INFORMATION GATHERED DURING THE PRESENT VISIT. THIS WILL
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INCLUDE A MISSION SPECIALIZED IN PRODUCTION OF MACHINE TOOLS.

4. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, KU MU HAS ALREADY MET WITH BARRE (WHO GAVE A BANQUET IN HIS HONOR), GUIRINGAUD AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER D'ORNANO. IN ADDITION TO THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ISSUES, KU MU AND BARRE REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE "RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS" FOR PRESENT WORLD TENSIONS. AFTER THE MEETING WITH BARRE IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT KU MU WOULD ALSO BE RECEIVED BY GISCARD ON MAY 11. IN HIS DINNER TOAST KU MU REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "THE CHINESE PEOPLE NEED A LASTING PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE" AND BLAMED THE ABSENCE OF SUCH PEACE ON THE "DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS."
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